

NEWS OF THE AMATEUR

RIVERHEAD BUSIEST IN WORLD

Versatile Station Has Made Great Progress in Receiving Messages.

ANTENNA OF NINE MILES

New Type of Installation Provides for Annulling Signals Not Wanted.

Although Radio Central, near Port Jefferson, L. I., is the most powerful wireless station in the world, Riverhead, L. I., is the most versatile and also the busiest.

Radio Central can talk to Wales, France, Germany or Norway with ease, but Riverhead can listen to Wales, France, Germany, Norway and any other powerful stations that may be established simultaneously. And at the same time it can close its ears to the powerful impulses sent out only a few miles away by the giant Radio Central, New Brunswick, Merion and Tuckerston stations, and to 50 per cent. of the atmospheric disturbances coming from every point of the compass.

It is more dramatic, more impressive, to hurl radio messages across three or four thousand miles of land or water than to pick them up at the other end. That is why almost every person interested in radio knows a good deal about Radio Central and its 200 kilowatt alternators and very little about Riverhead, which picks up and relays over powerful electromagnetic waves after their long leap across the Atlantic.

From an engineering standpoint, however, what has been accomplished at Riverhead in the receiving line is at least as remarkable as what has been done at Radio Central. Riverhead, however, does its work with a different orientation; Radio Central's tall towers and terrific currents advertise it to the world.

Why Riverhead is Versatile.

A few years ago in this country, and at the present time in all other countries, every sending station had its complement in a receiving station, located about fifty miles from it and connected with it by telegraph lines. The one station talked; the other listened. Now Radio Central, New Brunswick, Merion and Tuckerston all talk, and Riverhead competently handles incoming traffic from all the European centers with which they are connected. The explanation of Riverhead's efficiency is the wave antenna.

The station is not a network of antennae such as the mind would picture. It has simply one antenna consisting of two copper wires nine miles long, strung on ordinary telegraph poles. One station building contains the receiving apparatus which separates the conglomerate signals received from Norway, England, France and Germany, and transfers them directly and automatically over trunk line wires into the Broad Street central office in New York city, where all incoming and outgoing messages are handled. The system of concentration, achieved after much experimentation, makes it possible to add new receiving circuits for communication with any new station in Europe at a negligible cost simply by installing a new set of receiving apparatus on one of the shelves provided for that purpose at the station.

Expert Tells About Station.

A description of certain phases of the Riverhead station, especially with regard to the manner in which it eliminates static, and of what may develop in the future, has been given by Ernest E. Alexander, chief engineer of the Radio Corporation of America. He said:

"The antenna is of a new type which gives uni-directional reception so oriented that it receives signals from the ocean transmitter and annuls signals from all other directions, including the powerful home transmitter nearby.

"The antenna consists of two copper wires strung on ordinary poles, like a telephone line, and extending over a distance of nine miles. From this antenna a number of separate receiving circuits of different wave lengths are connected without the slightest mutual interference or weakening of the signals.

"Important as it is, from the point of view of the central office, it is the reward of an indefinite number of signals from the same antenna, the greatest importance in the use of this new receiving system is its remarkable properties of suppressing signals from the ocean transmitter and annuls signals from all other directions, including the powerful home transmitter nearby.

"The principle which has almost unlimited possibilities. The practical form of receiving system which was described in one of my articles in 1913 was used by the United States Navy during the war, and became known as the 'barrage' receiver. It consisted of two antennae one-quarter of a mile long, balanced against each other. The waves of static electricity that it was of the nature of static electricity. The hypothesis which is the basis of our modern work is, however, different.

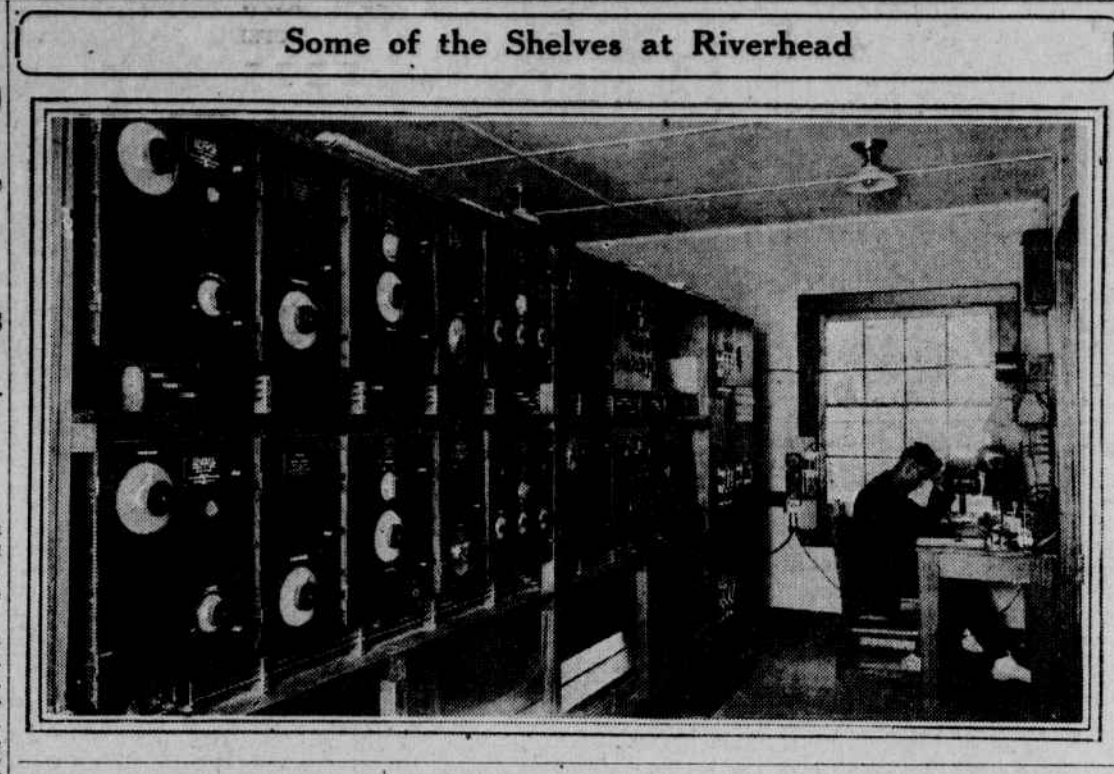
"We imagine the ether as a disturbed ocean with the waves of every length rolling in from all directions. These waves are of the same nature as the signal waves. Those disturbing waves which are of different wave length from our signals can be shut out by the action of the 'barrage' receiver. This idea started us on the work of electric reception. Theoretically there is no limit to the improvement attainable in this system. We have built a receiving antenna focused on one transmitting station in Europe, but the antenna

might be a system of telephone wiring covering the State of New York. "It is an attractive subject for theoretical analysis, and it can be shown mathematically how extensive antenna systems can be made with unlimited directivity. The well known 'loop' vertical directive antenna has a deaf ear in one direction, but receives signals and disturbances from three directions. The wave antenna turns its deaf ear to three directions and receives signals from the fourth direction. For those who wish to understand the characteristics of our modern receiving system, in order to make use of it, a popular explanation may be of some guidance.

"Imagine the antenna to be a long, narrow lake, and the wind is the signal, and a cork floating on the waves that beat against the shore, the detector. If the observer stands at one end of the lake he will observe waves beating against his shore only when the wind blows lengthwise of the lake, from the opposite shore. When, on the other hand, the wind blows from his side of the lake the beating waves appear in the opposite end, while his shore is calm.

This, at least, would be the case if the lake had smooth sand beaches on which the waves would spend their force. But, if it has steep, rocky shores the waves will be reflected back and forth so that the whole lake will be rough. The waves, which indicate the signal wind, would thus appear at both ends of the lake, regardless of the direction of the wind. This must be avoided.

"The wave antenna is therefore made with ends corresponding to the sandy beach. It terminates in a resonator, which is carefully adjusted so that all wave energy is absorbed and none is reflected.



Some of the Shelves at Riverhead

KDKA Crosses the Equator

At the present time, much more faintly, the big General Electric station at Schenectady, WGL, the Amrad station near Boston, and the Westinghouse stations WJZ at Newark and KDKA at East Pittsburgh are reaching out farther and farther, but now a record has been established which is going to be hard to beat.

Far down at Iquique, Chile, about 1,400 miles below the equator and 4,300 miles from East Pittsburgh, Frank S. Reb, chief radio operator of the Grace Line Santa Lucia, caught the strains of a concert. The music was running through some troublesome atmospheric, but maintained its way through the ether.

BROADCASTING STATIONS BALISTIC AT LIVERPOOL RADIOS TO CHATHAM

One Church and 14 Department Stores in List.

A new insight into the rapid growth of the radio telephone in popular esteem is given by statistics prepared by Arthur Winchberger, director of the Bureau of Research and Information of the National Retail Dry Goods Association. There are now 106 broadcasting stations licensed by the Government to send out programs on 360 meter wavelength. The number has jumped 50 per cent. within a month. The stations are distributed as follows: Atlantic seaboard, 32; New England, 10; Gulf States, 14; Middle West, 14; Far West, 14; and Canada, 10. Fourteen of the stations are maintained by department stores, ten by newspapers, seven by universities and colleges and one by the Church of the Covenant, Baltimore. The biggest jump in stations has been in the department store class. Big stores everywhere are preparing to obtain licenses.

At present 302 concerns are manufacturing radio equipment, thirty-four turning out complete receiving sets. There are also twenty-three manufacturers of raw materials and parts used in the construction of radio apparatus and thirty-four manufacturers of A and B batteries and battery recharging devices. Nine new magazines devoted to radio have been started and trade journals and newspapers and magazines are devoting much space to the subject.

COLLEGE RADIO PIONEERS.

Broadcasting Operated at Union Since Fall of 1920.

SCHENECTADY, May 13.—Although Union College was organized in 1795 it was still young enough to lead the procession in the matter of radio broadcasting.

In the early fall of 1920, before any of the large broadcasting stations were regularly operated, the Union College Radio Club began sending out musical programs once a week. Students who returned to their studies after war service in the United States Army and Navy had been made by radio during the war, devoted their spare time to building a station, and on October 14, 1920, sent out the first program, consisting of phonograph records.

Until this season the college club used a homemade set with six 20 watt radio tubes. It has just installed a General Electric outfit with four 20 watt tubes, thus making it four times as efficient.

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"The wave antenna is therefore made with ends corresponding to the sandy beach. It terminates in a resonator, which is carefully adjusted so that all wave energy is absorbed and none is reflected.

"The practical advantages of the use of the wave antenna like 50 per cent. of the atmospheric disturbances and the possibility of concentrating all reception in one station. The developments which I have described show now that a practical solution has been found for the atmospheric disturbances in transoceanic communication. The same solution has been applied to ship to shore communication, with the result that the ocean liners are in touch with our Cape Cod station as soon as they leave the English channel."

The members of the Electrical Contractors Association of Brooklyn and Queens, who are running the show, have discovered in the course of the exhibition that the patrons of the exhibition can be divided sharply into two classes—those who know nothing at all about radio and those who know everything about it. The experts explaining things have come to view every one at the show cautiously, for a twelve-year-old boy, whose father would not deem to ascend above him, or a mild old gentleman with the eye of a book collector may turn out to know much more about the theory or practice of radio than they do themselves.

The "radio bugs" who go to the show examine minutely every one of the million dollars' worth of equipment on view. At the same time, much more faintly, they hear another broadcasting station somewhere in the United States, and the nearest he could come to distinguishing the call was WFD, Capt. Williams of the Santa Lucia, and a number of passengers listened in on the signals, eager to get the news and music of home, which was coming to them from another hemisphere.

Owing to the fact that static is now beginning to make itself heard most emphatically, it is doubtful whether WGL or KDKA will establish any longer distant records. Nine new magazines devoted to radio have been started and trade journals and newspapers and magazines are devoting much space to the subject.

\$500 FOR RADIO AMATEURS.

Prizes Will Be Awarded at Show for Home Made Sets.

Five hundred dollars will be distributed in prizes to radio amateurs exhibiting home made sets at the New York radio show, to open May 22 at the Seventy-first Regiment Armory.

Any person not directly or indirectly connected with the manufacture or sale of radio apparatus will be permitted to compete. He may exhibit as many sets as he desires. The judges, headed by Milton H. Reed, chief radio engineer and electrical engineer, will judge the receiving sets on a point basis, 50 points for efficiency of reception and 10 each for appearance, simplicity, wiring and construction, economical cost and "hook-up" diagram.

The first prize will be \$100, second \$75, third \$50 and the others down to \$5. Many applications for blanks have already been received by E. C. Buchingham, managing director. Entries close May 17.

The Radio Corporation has leased the largest space at the show and the newly formed Radio Chamber of Commerce will also exhibit. Through an executive order signed by Secretary Denby, the navy's remarkable new radio compass will be exhibited.

BROADCASTS SHIP POSITIONS.

Through arrangements with the Radio Corporation of America, the Newark broadcasting station, WJZ, now sends out daily at 8 P. M. the noon position of vessels at sea, as reported to the United States Coast Guard by the Atlantic coast.

EVENTS OF THE WEEK IN THE RADIO FIELD

Mrs. August Belmont to Speak on the Work of the American Red Cross at WJZ on Wednesday. Many Other Lectures.

The program for the week of the various broadcasting stations which can be heard within a radius of several hundred miles of New York are presented herewith. During the week The New York Herald will print the daily programs of the stations each morning.

Times given are daylight saving. Tune instruments for 360 meter waves, except in the case of WJZ, which sends on 1,460 meters.

Station WJZ, Newark.

6:00 A. M.—Musical program.

6:30 A. M.—Musical program.

7:00 A. M.—Musical program.

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12:00 A. M.—Musical program.

12:30 A. M.—Musical program.

1:00 A. M.—Musical program.

False, director of costume ensembles, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh. "Nursing—A Profession," Mrs. Ford of the Pittsburgh Public Health Nursing Association, Pittsburgh. From the Pittsburgh Post-Intelligencer studio.

7:00 P. M.—Musical program.

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